

CONGRESSMAN CAL DOOLEY'S VALLEY ACTION PLAN FEBRUARY 2002 UPDATE

In 2001, Congressman Cal Dooley made significant progress on the agenda items outlined in his 2001-2002 Valley Action Plan. He continues to play a leadership role in shaping fiscal policy, trade, and education debates in Congress, and he is working to make sure that the national economy grows and that Valley residents are able to benefit from that growth. What follows is a "report card" of progress to date on Congressman Dooley's Valley Action Plan priorities and his plans for progress in the year ahead:

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

- ✓ Helped pass significant tax relief for Valley residents, including lower marginal tax rates, increased tax relief to families with children, and elimination of the estate tax
- ✓ Helped secure competitive Empowerment Zone designation for the City of Fresno
- ✓ Helped secure competitive Renewal Community designations for the cities of Parlier and Orange Cove
- ✓ Secured personal commitments from President Bush and Agriculture Secretary Veneman on officially convening unique regional Central Valley Empowerment Initiative

Goals for 2002:

- **Make Sure Economic Designations Live Up to Their Promise**
 - Ensure that historic Central Valley Empowerment Initiative Task Force marshals coordinated resources of federal government to develop regional approach toward economic development
 - Work with city officials in Fresno, Parlier, and Orange Cove to build community support for federal economic designations and ensure that benefits are used effectively to attract new businesses and job creation
 - Establish "Empowerment Zone Caucus" in Congress to secure all resources available for Round III Zones, including Fresno
 - Work with USDA to develop restructuring plan for 1999 Enterprise Community designation to ensure full enjoyment of award's benefits
- **Protect Job Training Funds**
 - Oppose Bush Administration's proposed decrease of federal job training funds and work for funding increase to help meet Valley's need for more skilled workers
- **Support Fiscally Responsible Federal Budget**
 - Support budgetary increases in defense and homeland security spending to effectively prosecute the war on terrorism, while paying down the national debt, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, and keeping a lid on deficit spending

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THE VALLEY'S INFRASTRUCTURE

- ✓ Secured \$121 million for construction of new federal courthouse in Fresno
- ✓ Secured \$10 million for construction of new housing quarters at Lemoore Naval Air Station
- ✓ Secured funding to improve Valley transportation network, including \$2.5 million for a new Visalia Transit Center, \$2.5 million for farm-to-market roads in Tulare County, \$750,000 for clean emissions buses in Fresno, and funds for Kern County's Meadows Field
- ✓ Helped secure \$490,000 to revitalize the Baker Street Corridor to spur economic development in central Bakersfield

Goals for 2002:

- **Expand Investment In Lemoore Naval Air Station**
 - Increase federal investment in LNAS housing, recreational and flight support facilities to ensure that LNAS continues to play a vital role in the war on terrorism and homeland defense
 - Work with Navy officials to establish a more secure perimeter around LNAS to ensure the safety and integrity of base operations
- **Strengthen Valley Transportation Network**
 - Support efforts to widen Highway 46 in Kern County and Highway 198 between Highway 99 and Hanford in Kings County
 - After securing \$35 million to extend Highway 180 in Fresno County west to I-5, continue work with state officials to accelerate construction timeline
 - Work with Valley airport official to implement new airport safety law and identify funding sources for purchase of explosive detection equipment

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SAFE COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Organized two Central Valley Meth Summits on reducing meth supply by strengthening law enforcement and reducing demand by expanding access to drug treatment programs.
- ✓ Helped secure a \$1 million increase for the Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) to fight meth, bringing annual funding to \$2.5 million, and introduced legislation with Sen. Barbara Boxer to provide “drug treatment on demand” to any meth abuser who voluntarily seeks treatment.
- ✓ Secured commitment from DEA Administrator Asa Hutchinson to assign four additional DEA agents to Central Valley HIDTA to compensate for post-9/11 loss of FBI agents
- ✓ Helped secure \$1.5 million to help the Fresno Police Department improve its crime fighting technology
- ✓ Supported legislation that created seven new 21st Century Learning Centers in the Valley in 2001 to give Valley students safe and constructive after school activities

Goals for 2002:

- **Secure More Funds and More Federal Agents to Fight Meth**
 - Continue push for additional federal law enforcement agents assigned to Central Valley HIDTA
 - Continue to increase funding for Central Valley HIDTA, after having successfully advocated for funding increases the last three years
 - Work to identify funding sources within the Department of Agriculture for cleanup of meth labs on agricultural land
- **Promote and Aid Homeland Security in the Valley**
 - Convene Homeland Security Mayors Forum to draw attention to the federal government's resources for aiding local communities' anti-terrorism preparedness
 - Increase COPS Technology funding and encourage Valley police departments to use funds to upgrade their crime-fighting technology
 - Pass legislation to provide communities with bioterrorism preparedness funds
 - Identify resources to aid farmers in guarding against agri-terrorism
- **Launch Farmworker Transportation Pilot Project**
 - After having helped secure more than \$10 million in start-up money, work to successfully launch Farmworker Transportation Services Pilot Project to more safely transport Valley workers from home to field, and promote wider use of program if pilot program is successful

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AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

- ✓ Co-authored legislation to grant the president Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and led effort to secure Democratic votes, ensuring House passage
- ✓ Jointly introduced legislation to reauthorize the federal-state CALFED program to ensure more reliable agricultural water deliveries throughout California
- ✓ Secured funds to improve Valley flood control and expand water supply storage, including initiation of construction at Lake Kaweah reservoir enlargement
- ✓ Worked to include \$63 million in economic assistance for Valley specialty crop growers as part of a midyear supplemental farm aid package
- ✓ Worked for inclusion of Valley priorities in House rewrite of federal Farm Bill
- ✓ Successfully included funds in House Farm Bill for 10-year, \$100 million program to train farmworkers to use new technologies and provide greater stability in local labor force, modeled on UFW's Skill Our Agribusiness Region (SOAR) project
- ✓ Helped secure more than \$11 million for Pierce's Disease research and control

Goals for 2002:

- **Increase Access to Foreign Markets**
 - Push for Senate and final approval of Trade Promotion Authority bill to ensure swifter and more effective trade negotiations
 - Continue to advocate creation of proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and bilateral trade agreements with Vietnam, Singapore and other nations
- **Expand Valley Water Supply**
 - Advance CALFED legislation that promises greater stability and flexibility to Valley farmers
 - Secure funds for additional water storage at Lake Success and flood control at Arroyo Pasajero, White River, Deer Creek, Poso Creek and Frazier Creek
- **Ensure Valley Priorities Reflected in 2002 Farm Bill**
 - Continue advocacy of market-based commodity programs, increased ag research funding, expanded market opportunities, and a strengthened fight against pests and disease
 - Ensure that final bill includes funds for new Farmworker Training program
- **Encourage Support for Guestworker Compromise**
 - Continue to work with grower and farmworker communities to find a solution to the Valley's agricultural labor challenges

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BETTER SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS

- ✓ Helped pass historic education reform law that included many elements of “Three R’s” bill co-authored with fellow New Democrats. New law doubles Title I funding for the neediest schools, improves teacher quality, and increases accountability in exchange for greater flexibility in using federal dollars
- ✓ Coauthored successful amendment to the Patients Bill of Rights that would expand health care access by allowing more workers to enroll in Association Health Plans offered by trade or employee groups
- ✓ Coauthored successful legislation to increase reimbursement rates for Medicare HMO’s in rural areas
- ✓ Helped secure \$300,000 to support land acquisition for the new Community Regional Medical Center campus in downtown Fresno

Goals for 2002:

- **Fulfilling the Promise of More Aid for Needy Schools**
 - Work with congressional appropriations committees to live up to education bill’s promise of a doubling of Title I funding over seven years to the neediest schools
- **Expand Health Care Access**
 - Play a leadership role in transforming health care policy to place a greater emphasis on providing care to the uninsured
 - Reintroduce legislation to provide low- and middle-income families with refundable tax credits for the purchase of health insurance, and continue to expand the availability of association health plans
 - Continue to support measures to address regional inequities in Medicare HMO reimbursement formulas
 - Support measures to keep the Valley’s rural hospitals open and operating
- **Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage**
 - Continue to support plans to provide affordable, reliable, and optional prescription drug coverage as part of Medicare

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LEADERSHIP FOR THE VALLEY

- ✓ Joined House in approving plan to lower consumers' energy costs by expanding production, investing in renewable and emerging energy technologies, and encouraging greater efficiency
- ✓ Hosted "Open Door" hours to give constituents the chance to share their concerns one-on-one in the communities of Arvin, Bakersfield, Coalinga, Corcoran, Cutler, Delano, Fowler, Fresno, Hanford, Kerman, Lamont, Lemoore, Mendota, Orosi, Parlier, Selma, Shafter, and Wasco
- ✓ Launched initiative to better communicate work in Congress to Valley's Spanish-language media outlets

Goals for 2002:

- **Aiding the Valley's Immigrant Families**
 - Keep Valley families unified by continuing to support permanent extension of the 245(i) program, which allows families to remain unified while pursuing legal residency
 - Support President Bush's effort to finally restore full food stamp benefits that have been denied to legal immigrants since 1996
 - Support efforts to modernize the Immigration and Naturalization Service, dividing the agency into separate enforcement and citizenship agencies
- **Moving Families from Welfare To Work**
 - Support reauthorization of 1996 welfare reform bill, continuing the program's aim of requiring work while improving work support system
- **Continue Open Doors**
 - Continue series of "Open Doors" throughout communities of the 20th district